New Facts on Kennedy Death Plot Claimed

Figure in FBI Probe Says His Information Might Boost Conspiracy Theory

BY JERRY COHEN
Times Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — A figure in the Warren Commission investigation told Gov. Reagan's legal affairs secretary Tuesday he has information which may support the theory that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy resulted from a conspiracy.

Loran E. Hall's appearance before Edwin Meese in the Capitol building constituted a surprising reversal of position.

Hall, who has resisted testifying in a controversial New Orleans investigation into the assassination, had insisted in the past that he had no knowledge of a conspiracy to kill Mr. Kennedy.

But he said his memory recently [illegible] been "jogged" by "certain [illegible]iduals reminding me of persons [illegible] in contact with in 1963 before [illegible] assassination."

Certain Names Supplied

[illegible] said he had supplied Meese [illegible] the names of "those certain [illegible]ons I met while making [illegible]hes in the Los Angeles area [illegible] I was raising funds for anti-[illegible] activities."

[illegible] almost every occasion after I [illegible] talking at one of these [illegible]gs," Hall said, "I'd overhear [illegible] people there discuss the possi- [illegible] of assassinating Kennedy— [illegible] it might be done.

[illegible] Kennedy. But also (Ch[illegible] Earl) Warren and other [illegible]ment officials — how they [illegible] gotten rid of."

[illegible] adventurer who once was [illegible]tro prisoner, claims to have [illegible] at more than 50 meetings in [illegible] California in the early [illegible] seeking support for anti- [illegible] guerrillas, of which he was

Silent on Meeting Sites

[illegible] said that, during the speeches, [illegible]pressed disappointment at [illegible]ent Kennedy's conduct of the [illegible] Pigs incident, but never [illegible]ally advocated harming him. [illegible] declined to specify the sites of [illegible] meetings, but said he had [illegible]plied Meese with those he could [illegible]ember.

He said he had been giving "serious thought" to New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's demand that he appear before a grand jury there. "Garrison's office has been in contact with me, and there's a chance I might reconsider about testifying in New Orleans," he said.

But Hall said he had asked for the audience with Meese "to protect myself in the event I do decide to go to New Orleans."

He added, "I felt first I should give

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any information that might be of value to a proper authority in California, and I decided the governor's legal affairs secretary was that proper authority.

"I don't actually know if what I had to tell Mr. Meese will be useful to anyone investigating the President's murder, but I felt if there's a chance it might be, I ought to tell him."

Subponae Issued

Garrison issued a subpoena late last year for Hall, claiming he was in Dallas "until the assassination" and associated with men the New Orleans prosecutor contends plotted the assassination.

But Hall produced a witness who established he was in California Nov. 22, 1963, and a Bakersfield Superior Court judge upheld his argument that he not be required to answer the Garrison subpoena.

Hall also denied knowing any of the alleged conspirators—including a North Hollywood man, Edgar Eugene Bradley—a position he apparently now has retreated from. He said after his memory recently was refreshed about "events in 1963 and faces I encountered," he appeared before another Bakersfield judge April 15 and was assured his previous testimony would not make him liable to a perjury charge.

It was then, he said, that he decided to go to Meese. After hearing Hall's story, Meese declined comment on it.

Story Studied

The Warren Commission investigation focused on Hall, but only briefly and then inconclusively, in the very late stages of the 1964 inquiry which found Lee Harvey Oswald to be the lone assassin.

He figured in it because investigators wanted to tie [illegible] of a disturb- [illegible] by Mrs. Sylvia Odio, then a 26-year-old refugee from Castro Cuba.

Mrs. Odio told the FBI her Dallas apartment had been visited in late September, 1963, by three men seeking her help in anti-Castro activity. One, she said, was introduced to her as "Leon Oswald," a man described by one of his companions as a "crack marksman" who favored assassinating Mr. Kennedy because of the Bay of Pigs failure.

After the assassination, Mrs. Odio said she saw a picture of Lee Harvey Oswald flashed on television. She said she recognized him as one of her three visitors, then fainted.

Name Submitted

The commission asked the FBI to try to find the three men in an attempt to determine if her story had substance. The FBI came up with Hall's name.

The commission concluded that because of the contradictions in what Hall told the FBI and its own evidence that Oswald was elsewhere on that date—Oswald could not have been one of the three men who visited Mrs. Odio's apartment.

However, the incident still troubles critics of the Warren Commission Report, not the least of whom is Dist. Atty. Garrison.

Garrison has charged New Orleans civic leader Clay L. Shaw and Bradley with conspiring to kill Mr. Kennedy. He also has said that Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie, a New Orleans eccentric, were a part of the plot.

An extradition hearing for Bradley is scheduled before Meese in Sacramento June 5, according to his attorney, George Jensen of Beverly Hills.

Shaw, indicted more than a year ago, still is awaiting trial in New Orleans.

He apparently has exhausted his last legal appeal before his case goes before a jury there, possibly late next month or early in June.